



# Friend

PRACHETA GUPTA



Illustrations  
Debabrata Ghosh

Translation  
Sayan Chaudhuri



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*Nehru Bal Pustakalya*

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Tultule is the name of a cute and fluffy baby cloud. She is very beautiful and soft like cotton.



But she is also very naughty and cannot sit calmly. She keeps moving from one place to another in the vast blue sky.





Other elderly clouds scold Tultule. They instruct her to sit quiet. Tultule laughs and says, "I love floating around, I cannot sit idle."



Tultule dances with even greater zest. She loves to bathe in the soft morning light. In the afternoon, she basks in the sunlight.





At night Tultulë looks like a fairy queen. With moon  
shining like a bindi stars twinkling over her body like  
jewels







One fine day Tultule discovers a black spot on her body. Elders warn her, "Tultule you never listen to us. Now you shall disappear with the rain!"



Gradually the black spot spreads. Tultule is afraid. She feels like crying because the spot is becoming bigger. She decides to take a dip in a river to get rid of the spot.






She feels sad. She wants to remain fair and beautiful.

Tultule starts moving faster in search of a river. She crosses the city blocks,

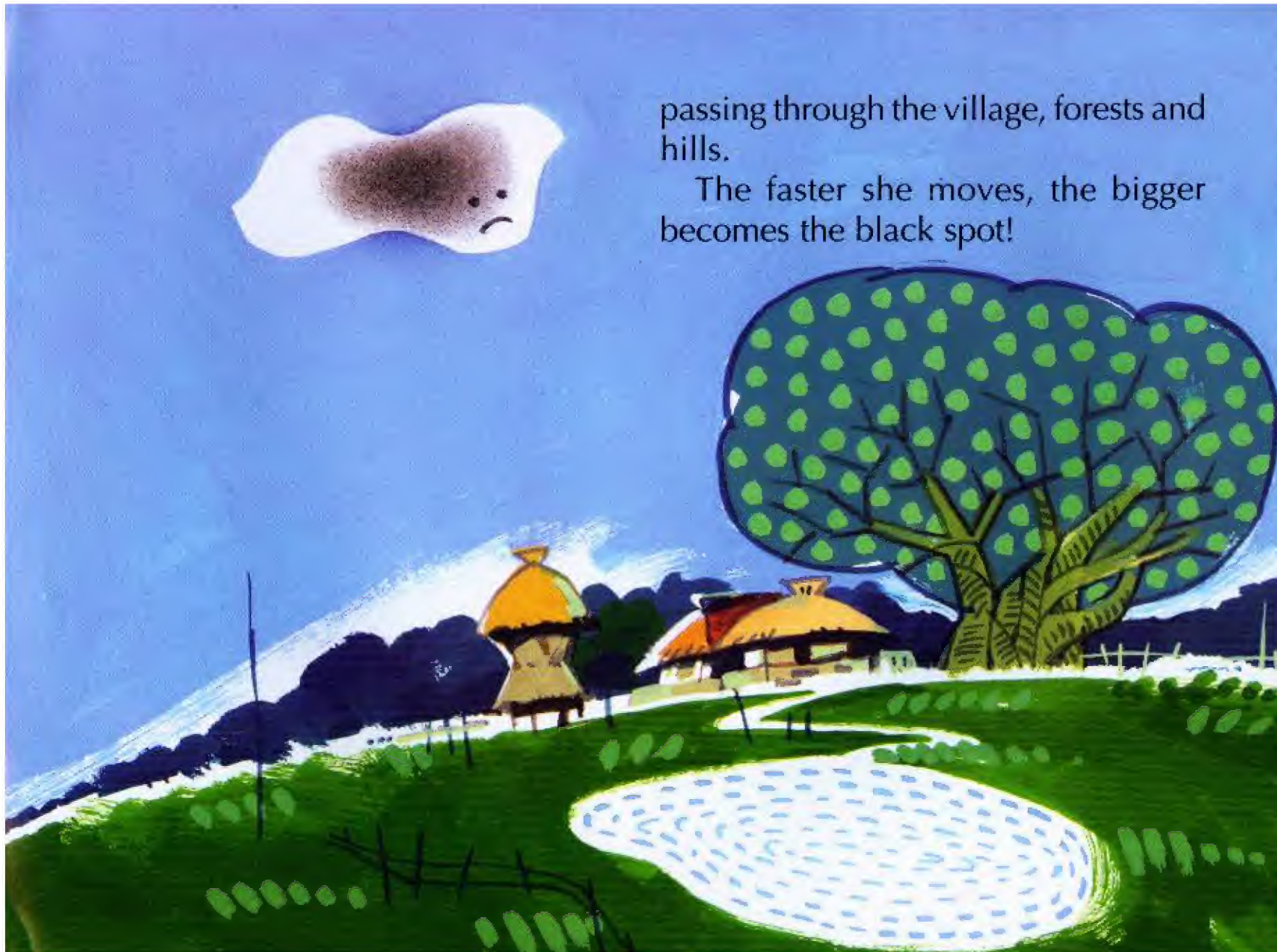






passing through the village, forests and hills.

The faster she moves, the bigger becomes the black spot!

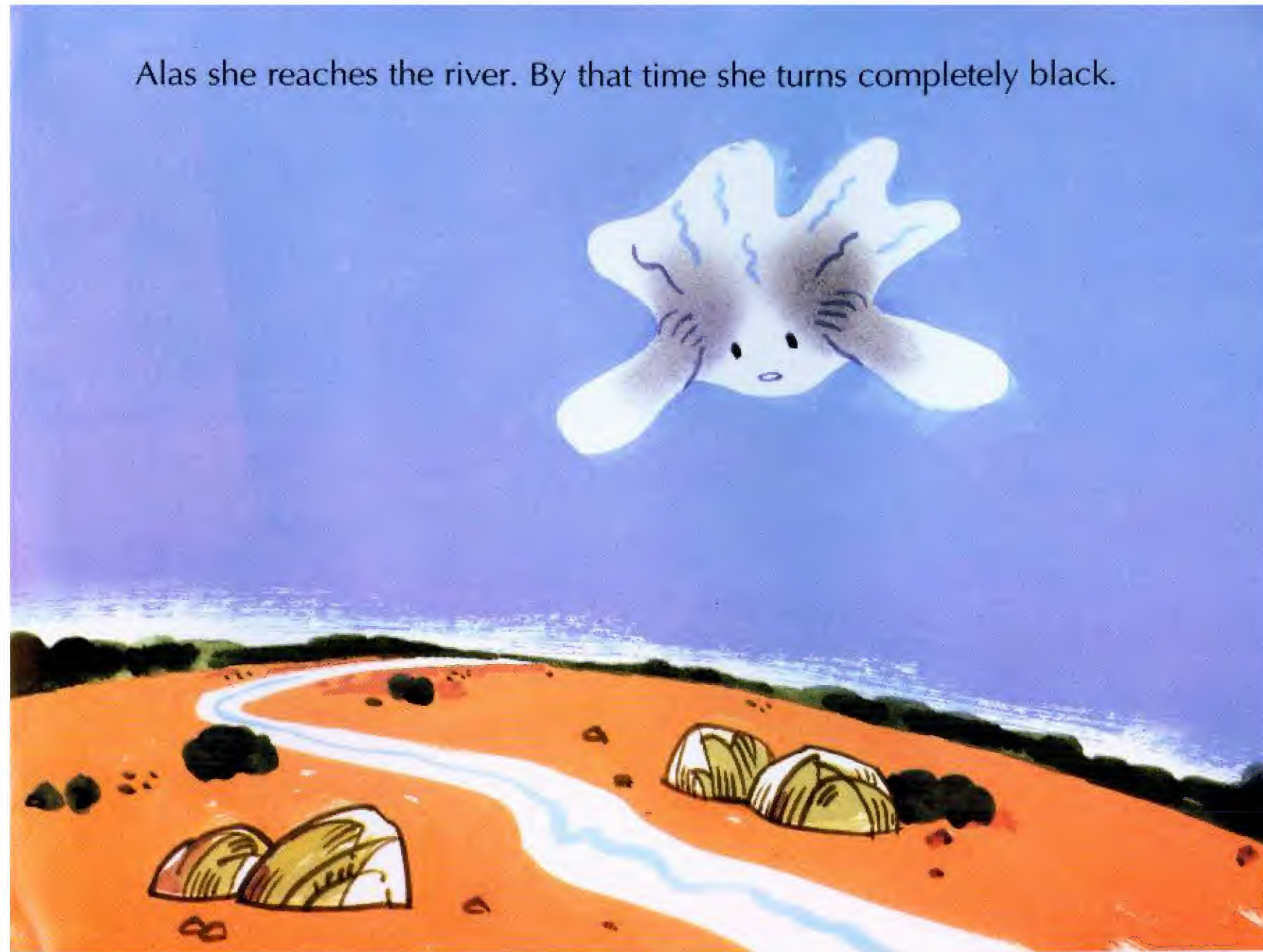




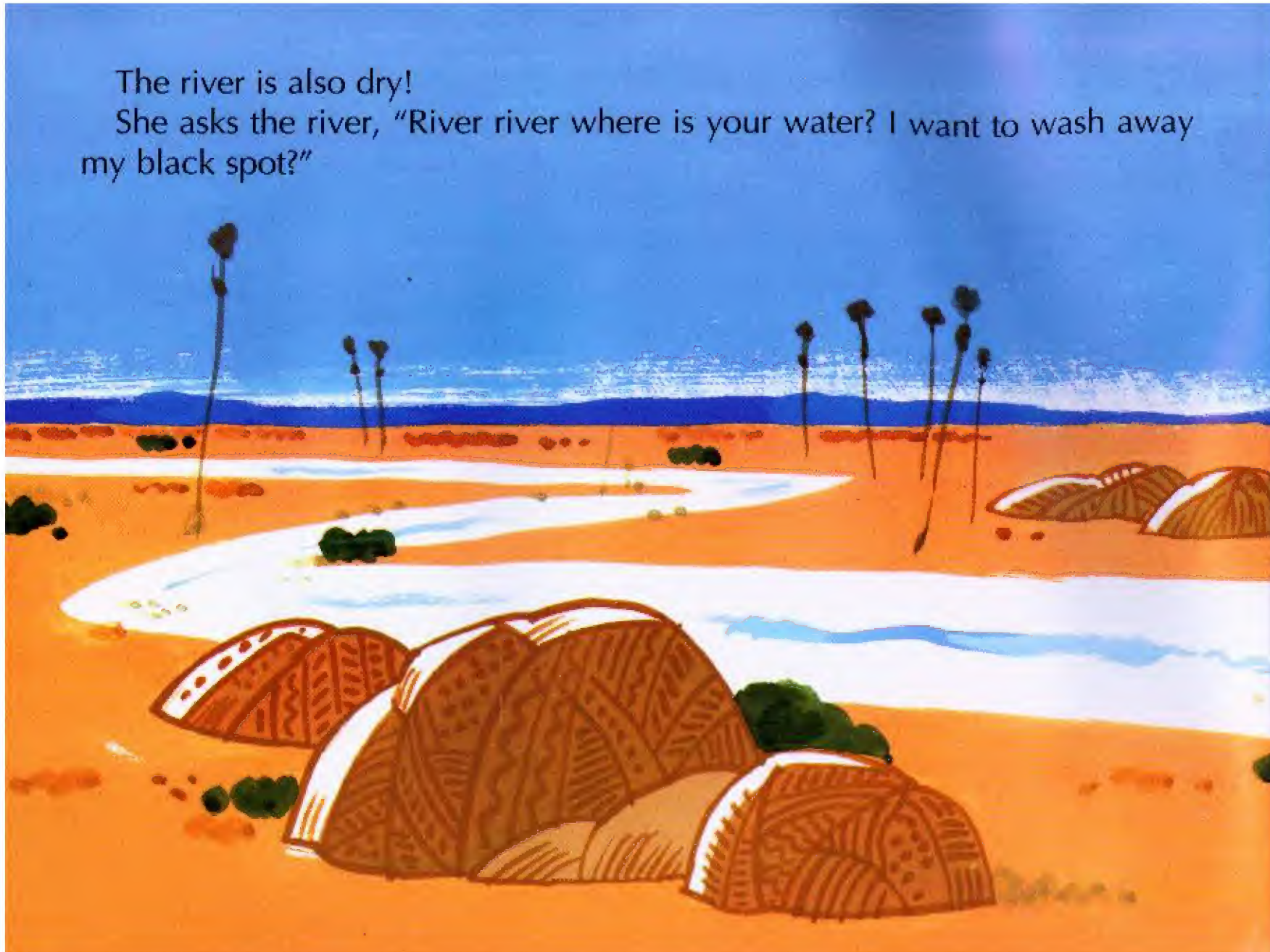




Alas she reaches the river. By that time she turns completely black.



The river is also dry!  
She asks the river, "River river where is your water? I want to wash away  
my black spot?"



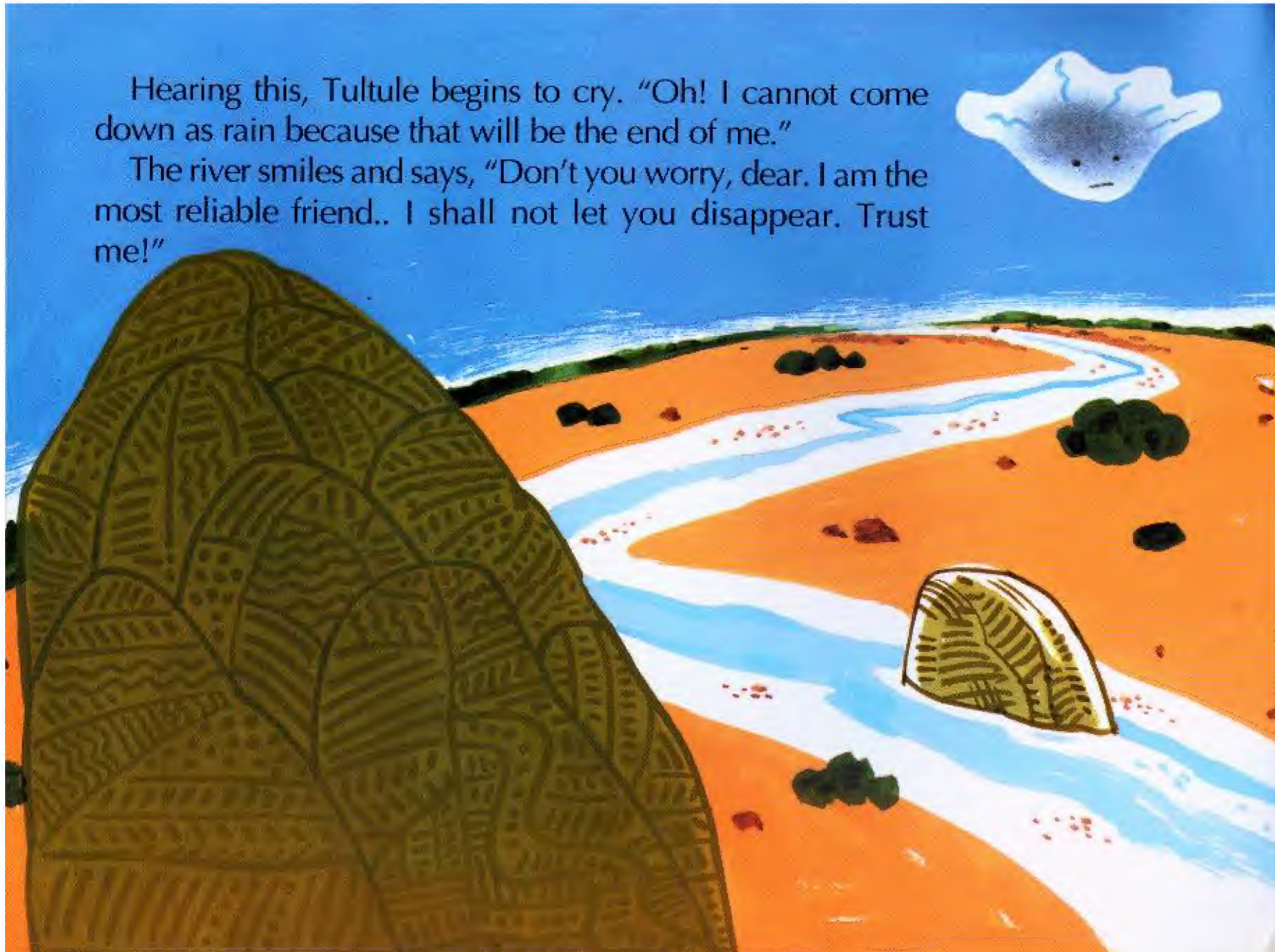


"There is no cloud, no rain, so I have no water! Please shower some rain on me," pleads the river.



Hearing this, Tultule begins to cry. "Oh! I cannot come down as rain because that will be the end of me."

The river smiles and says, "Don't you worry, dear. I am the most reliable friend.. I shall not let you disappear. Trust me!"

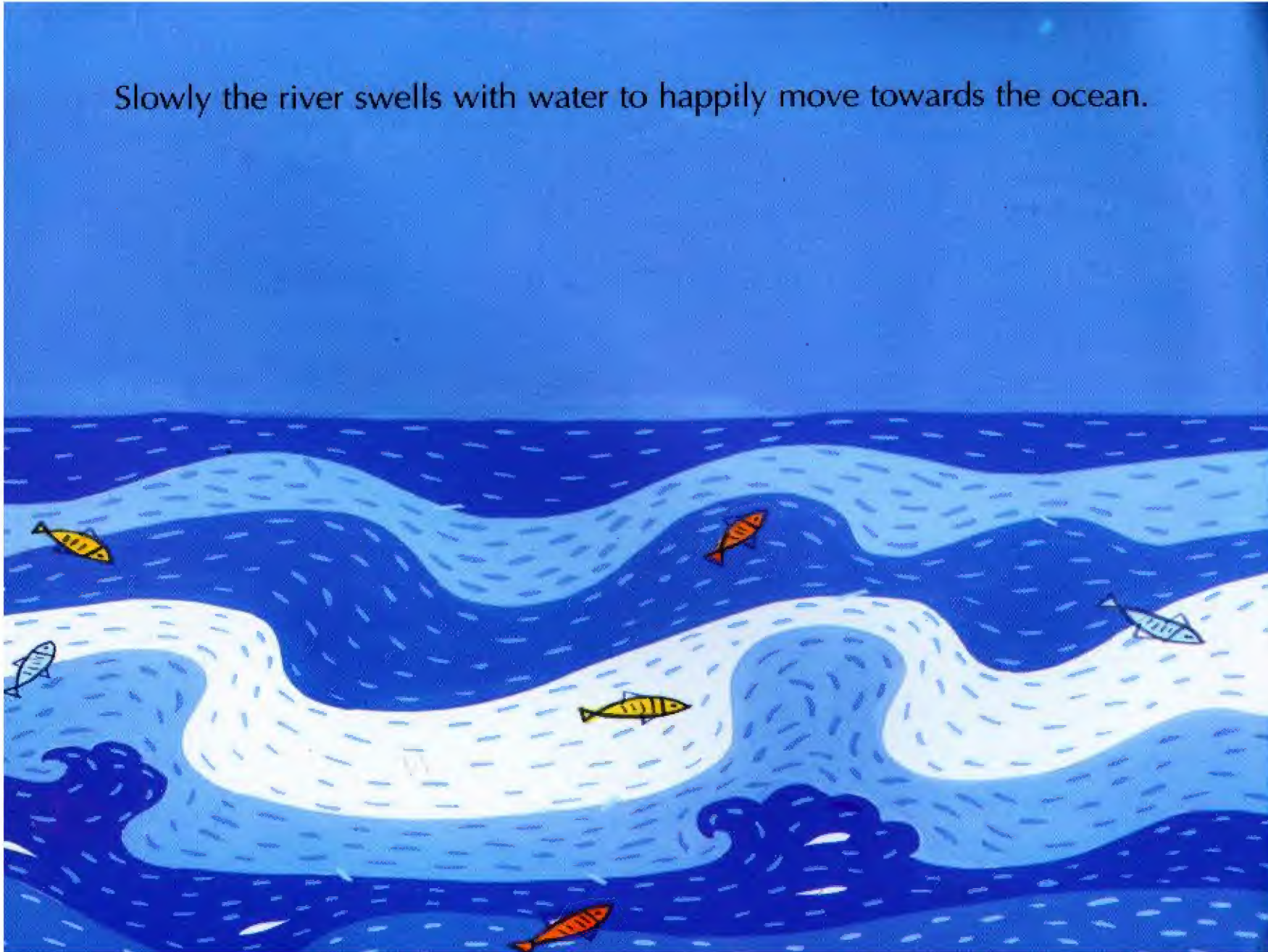




Tultule drops down as rain. Like a true friend the river embraces the rain.



Slowly the river swells with water to happily move towards the ocean.





As the river meets the ocean, a new Tultule is born!



Even more soft, more fluffy and more beautiful!









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